20th October 1947] [Sri K. Madhava Menon]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I move, Sir—

'*that the Bill be passed into law.*' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(3) THE PRISONS (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 19 OF 1947).

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir—

'*that the Prisons (Madras Amendment) Bill*[a], *1947 (L.A. Bill No. 19 of 1947), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" Sir, the Bill seeks to remove the punishment of whipping for persons who are on hunger strike. The punishment of whipping for hunger strikes was introduced in 1942. My predecessor Mr. Bhashyam thought and rightly thought that this was a barbarous punishment for going on hunger strike, namely, whipping a prisoner who is on hunger strike either during the time of the hunger strike or after the hunger strike is over. When this Bill was introduced in the other House the debate on the question ranged from all angles of jail reform. I submit that the scope of the Bill is very limited and the questions whether other punishments in jail are just or not or what reform should be undertaken are under the consideration of the Government. Certain punishments are necessary for hunger strikes in jail. At the time when Mr. Bhashyam was in office there was a wave of hunger strikes and he thought that the punishment of whipping was unnecessary or improper in such cases. Sir, I cannot agree that hunger strike is the proper form of expression of grievances in jails or anywhere else. This has been used now-a-days more as a stunt than for any real objection. Whatever that may be the punishment of whipping for hunger strikes is unnecessary and improper and I, therefore, move, Sir, that the amendment may be accepted by the House and the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir—

'*that the Bill be passed into law.*' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(4) THE PRISONS (MADRAS AMENDMENT NO. II) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 20 OF 1947).

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—

'*that the Prisons (Madras Amendment No. II) Bill*[b], *1947 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1947) as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" This is also a very small matter, Sir. To avoid certain technical difficulties civil debtors when they are arrested are

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a Printed as Appendix VI on page 482 infra.

b Printed as Appendix VII on page 482 infra.